



NESFA

New England Science Fiction Association, Inc.  
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## Press Release

For Immediate Release

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### 47<sup>th</sup> Boskone Convention Announces Guest of Honor, Official Artist, and Special Guest

Boston, MA (October 2009) -- The New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. (NESFA) will hold its 47th **Boskone** science fiction convention at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in South Boston, MA on February 12-14, 2010. Boskone is a regional science fiction convention focusing on literature, and including many program items on art, science, music, media topics, and gaming. Detailed information is available at [www.Boskone.org](http://www.Boskone.org).

The **Guest of Honor** at Boskone 47 is **Alastair Reynolds**. A native of Wales, he is one of the key contributors to the new space opera, a part of the field that also includes writers like Iain Banks, Stephen Baxter, and others. He recently received a one million pound advance from Gollancz for ten books. His second novel, *Chasm City*, won the British Science Fiction Association award in 2002. He was a scientist within the European Space Agency, and spent much of his time working on S-Cam, the world's most advanced optical camera. He is now a full-time writer. In 2005, he was the Hal Clement Science Speaker at Boskone 42, and Boskone 47 is pleased to welcome him as Guest of Honor.

The **Official Artist** is **John Picacio**. He has created covers for works by Harlan Ellison, Michael Moorcock, Robert Silverberg, Neil Gaiman, Hal Clement, and many others. His illustrations have been selected numerous times for the **SPECTRUM ANNUAL**. In 2002, he received the International Horror Guild Award for Best Artist. In 2005, he was a finalist for the Hugo Award (Best Professional Artist), and won the World Fantasy Award (artist). In 2009, he won a Chesley Award for Best Cover Illustration: Paperback Book.

Boskone's **Special Guest** is **Tom Shippey**. At one point, he held the chair Tolkien held at the University of Leeds. He is an expert on medieval literature, especially the earliest literature of England and Scandinavia, but he is also an expert on science fiction and fantasy. His two recent books on Tolkien, *J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century* and *The Road to Middle-earth*, are two of the best on the subject. He is also writing the introduction to the next volume of James Blish's work that will be published by NESFA Press.

The Featured Filker is **Mary Crowell**. Her first filk convention was in 2001. She has been nominated several times for a Pegasus Award in the category of Best Performer, and won in 2007. A piano and composition teacher in August of 2008, she teaches in Athens, Alabama. She loves playing Rachmaninov, Chopin, Gershwin, Bach and jazz standards.

**Vernor Vinge**, author and former professor, will be honored as the Hal Clement Science Speaker. NESFA Press Guests are **Michael Whelan**, one of the world's premier fantasy and science fiction artists; and **Lois McMaster Bujold**, author of the novels featuring Miles Vorkosigan and an acclaimed writers in the field, having won the Hugo Award for Best Novel four times.

Run by and for science fiction and fantasy enthusiasts, Boskone 47 covers all aspects of speculative fiction. Boskone members can participate in over 100 program sessions, listen to author readings, meet one-on-one with authors, attend social events, tour one of the largest genre-oriented art shows on the east coast, participate in gaming events, and purchase books, art and media in the extensive dealer's room. Convention Chair, Jim Mann, says Boskone is "good place for people of all ages to enjoy themselves and to interact with many people of similar interests. Boskone has a literary focus, but we also have interesting programs on media, fandom, family-friendly discussions and games, and fun activities like our Friday night event, our Art Show reception, and our awards ceremony."

Boskone activities begin Friday, February 12 and end on Sunday, February 14. Full Memberships cost \$47 through mid-January 2010. At-door rates will be higher.

#### **Hotel Information**

The Westin Waterfront Hotel, connected to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, is located at 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210. The Westin Waterfront Hotel is less than one mile from South Station and three miles from Logan International Airport. It is easily accessible by public transportation.

#### **Links of Interest:**

**Alastair Reynolds:** <http://www.alastairreynolds.com>

**John Picacio:** <http://www.johnpicacio.com/update.html>

**Tom Shippey:** <http://www.slu.edu/x23819.xml>

**Mary Crowell:** <http://www.magnusretail.com/bio.html>

**Vernor Vinge:** [http://www.locusmag.com/2008/Issue12\\_Vinge.html](http://www.locusmag.com/2008/Issue12_Vinge.html)

**Michael Whelan:**

<http://www.glassonion.com/catalog/bio.php?osCsid=aeb981d909d7c79eb1e6a52f1898dd1a>

**Lois McMaster Bujold:** <http://www.dendarii.com/index.html>

**Coverage of Boskone 45 and filk**

<http://theophoenix.com/Boston/Life/58308-What-is-Filk/>

**Coverage of Boskone 44**

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/archive/x1937767312>

**Coverage of Boskone 43**

[http://www.boston.com/ae/movies/articles/2006/02/14/fans\\_are\\_gearing\\_up\\_for\\_the\\_con/](http://www.boston.com/ae/movies/articles/2006/02/14/fans_are_gearing_up_for_the_con/)  
[http://www.boston.com/ae/movies/articles/2006/02/14/get\\_your\\_geek\\_on/](http://www.boston.com/ae/movies/articles/2006/02/14/get_your_geek_on/)  
[http://www.boston.com/ae/movies/articles/2006/02/14/boskone\\_43/](http://www.boston.com/ae/movies/articles/2006/02/14/boskone_43/)

**The New England Science Fiction Association, Inc.** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and publishing science fiction and fantasy, and maintaining one of the largest science fiction and fantasy libraries in New England. **NESFA** can be found on the web at [www.NESFA.org](http://www.NESFA.org).

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Media representatives who are interested in attending Boskone should contact Elisabeth Carey for information about press passes and media kits.